


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): In an analytical method for characterizing the structure of a ~~chemical compound~~ carbohydrate by electrospray tandem mass spectrometry, the improvement which comprises derivatizing ~~the chemical compound~~ the carbohydrate with ferrocenyl boronate.

 Claim 2 (currently amended): The analytical method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~chemical compound~~ carbohydrate is an N-acetylated hexose carbohydrate.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The analytical method according to claim ~~3~~ 2, wherein the N-acetylated hexose carbohydrate is selected from the group consisting of 2-N-acetamido-D-glucosamine, 2-N-acetamidomannosamine, 2-N-acetamidogalactosamine, 2-N-acetamidoallosamine and lactofucosyltetraose.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The analytical method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~chemical compound~~ carbohydrate is an aldohexose or a ~~6-D~~ dideoxyaldohexose.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The analytical method according to claim 4, ~~where~~ in wherein the ~~chemical compound~~ carbohydrate is selected from the group consisting of D-glucose, D-~~M~~ mannose, D-~~G~~ galactose, L-~~F~~ fucose and L-~~R~~ rhamnose.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The analytical method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~chemical compound~~ carbohydrate is a maltose, cellobiose or lactose.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The~~ In an analytical method ~~according to claim 1,~~
~~wherein the chemical compound is a catechol estrogen~~ for characterizing the structure of
a catechol estrogen by electrospray tandem mass spectrometry, the improvement which
comprises derivatizing the catechol estrogen with ferrocenyl boronate.

21 Claim 8 (currently amended): The analytical method according to claim ~~8~~ 7,
wherein the catechol estrogen is 2-hydroxyestradiol.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The analytical method according to claim ~~9~~ 7,
wherein the catechol estrogen is 4-hydroxyestradiol.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The analytical method according to claim 1,
wherein the ~~chemical compound~~ carbohydrate is a D-Glc disaccharide.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The analytical method according to claim 1,
wherein the ~~chemical compound~~ carbohydrate is an O-methyl glycoside.
